

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9415

INFO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3958

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, HA,US

SUBJECT: FORMER HAITIAN PERMREP REQUESTS US RESIDENCY AND
DESCRIBES THE DISMISSAL OF HENRI SICLAIT, DIRECTOR
OF REGIE DU TABAC

1. ON SEPTEMBER 24, FORMER HAITIAN PERMREP RAOUL SICLAIT
CALLED ON AMBASSADOR BENNETT TO REQUEST A US RESIDENT VISA
FOR HIMSELF, A MULTIPLE-ENTRY VISA FOR HIS BROTHER HENRI
SICLAIT AND RESIDENT VISAS FOR HENRI'S ASSISTANTS ANTOINE
MOSCOVA AND JERARD GAUCHIER. SICLAIT DESCRIBED IN DRAMATIC
DETAIL HIS BROTHER'S DISMISSAL FROM HIS POST AS DIRECTOR OF THE
REGIE DU TABAC AND HIS OWN DISMISSAL. SICLAIT SAID THAT
HENRI'S TWO ASSISTANTS, MOSCOVA AND GAUCHIER, WERE ALSO
DEPORTED TO PARIS WITHOUT FUNDS. SICLAIT ASKED THAT WE
TREAT HIS STATEMENT IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE SINCE ANY
PUBLICITY COULD BRING HARM TO FAMILY MEMBERS STILL IN
HAITI.

2. SICLAIT SAID THAT HENRI WAS DISMISSED ON SEPTEMBER 7
COMPLETELY WITHOUT WARNING, FOLLOWING A MEETING THAT
MORNING WITH PRESIDENT DUVALIER. HENRI WAS ARRESTED
WHEN HE RETURNED TO HIS HOUSE, WHICH WAS SURROUNDED
BY POLICE. RAOUL WAS ABLE TO SEE HIM AT A DISTANCE AT THE AIRPORT
AS HENRI WAS BEING "DEPORTED" TO PARIS. RAOUL
SAID THAT HE TRIED TO SEE PRESIDENT DUVALIER, WAS
UNABLE TO, AND WAS FINALLY INSTRUCTED BY THE
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PRESIDENT'S SECRETARY TO RETURN TO HIS POST AT THE

UN. HE WAS DISMISSED SHORTLY AFTER RETURNING TO NEW YORK.

3. SHOWING BENNETT CLIPPINGS FROM THE HAITI OBSERVATEUR, PUBLISHED IN NEW YORK, SICLAIT POINTED TO ARTICLES ALLEGING THAT HENRI'S DISMISSAL RESULTED FROM HIS CLOSE FRIENDSHIP WITH AMBASSADOR ISHAM CONSTITUTED A SUBTLE ATTACK ON THE US EMBASSY AND WAS RELATED TO HENRI'S INCREASING PROMINENCE.

4. SICLAIT SAID THAT NEITHER HE NOR HIS BROTHER WISH EXILE STATUS SINCE SUCH STATUS COULD CAUSE HARM TO COME TO THEIR THREE SISTERS, AN AUNT, AND TWO OF HENRI'S CHILDREN, WHO REMAIN IN HAITI. SICLAIT ASSURED US THAT BOTH HE AND HIS BROTHER HAVE ADEQUATE FUNDS TO SUPPORT THEMSELVES.

5. RAOUL SAID BOTH JERARD GAUCHIER, WHO HE SAID HAS A VISA EXPIRING OCTOBER 7, AND ANTOINE MOSCOVA, WHO HAS A MULTIPLE-ENTRY VISA, ARE IN NEW YORK. GUACHIER IS STAYING WITH SICLAIT. HE SHOWED US A LETTER FROM THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA STATING THAT GAUCHIER HAS A BALANCE OF \$60,000 IN HIS NEW YORK ACCOUNT.

6. SICLAIT HAS BEEN IN THE UNITED STATES IN OFFICIAL CAPACITIES SINCE 1962, HE SAID. HE WAS WITH THE HAITIAN MISSION TO THE OAS IN 1962 AND 1963, CAME TO THE HAITIAN UN MISSION IN 1963 AND HAS BEEN PERMREP FOR FOUR YEARS.

7. COMMENT SICLAIT HAS BEEN HELPFUL AND CO-OPERATIVE TO US AT THE UN. END COMMENT.

8. REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS.
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